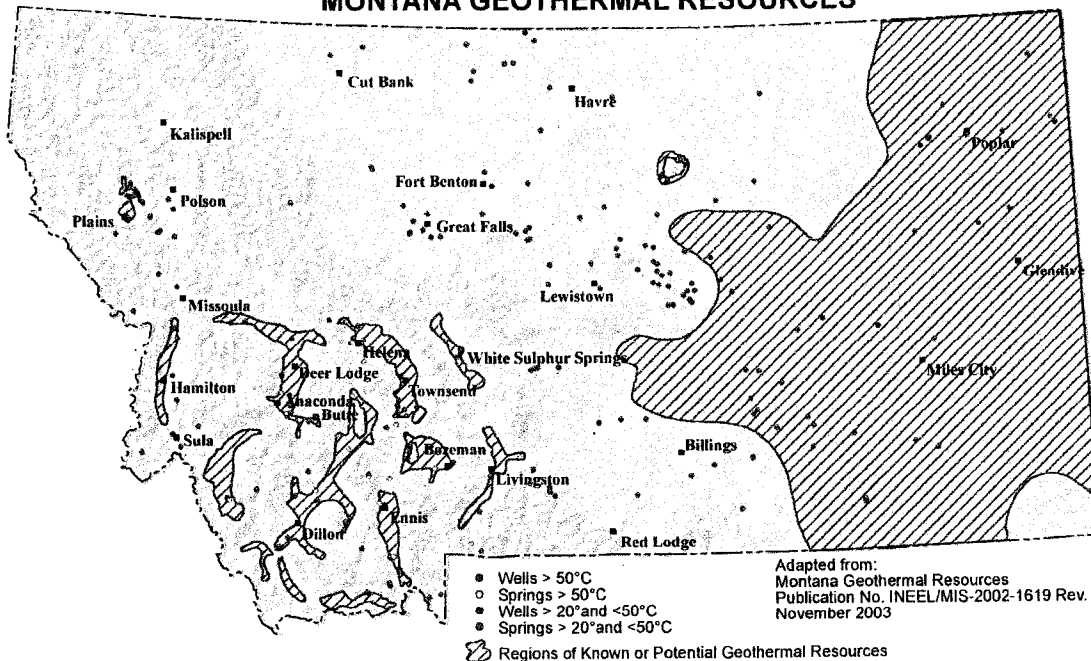


GEOTHERMAL ASSESSMENT and OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP 1136,8

Montana's Geothermal Potential— an Under-utilized Energy Resource

Montana has abundant geothermal resources that could provide heat, food, and electricity for citizens of Montana, but use of this resource is under-utilized and lags behind other states. Although a few spa resorts and greenhouses have tapped into this resource over the past century, the vast majority of the energy available in Montana from geothermal sources lies undeveloped.

MONTANA GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES



About one-third of the State of Montana is underlain by waters warm enough to generate benefits such as:

- electricity production,
- space and greenhouse heating,
- aquaculture,
- agriculture, and
- industrial processing.

Lack of data, outdated information, and the need to provide useful information on the development of the State's geothermal resources has hindered Montanans from tapping into this valuable resource. Rising fuel and electricity prices make geothermal energy more cost effective than they have ever been.

Goal: Increase the number of geothermal developments around the state by utilizing this renewable resource, thereby resulting in economic benefits.

Objectives:

Characterize - Collect data and characterize select geothermal areas throughout the state for renewable energy development.

Prepare Guides - Update the Regulatory Guide to Geothermal Development in Montana

Outreach materials- develop information circulars that will provide practical information on how to develop geothermal resources, including case studies of successful geothermal operations.

Collaboration: This project will be a collaborative between the Montana Geothermal Working Group, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the National Center for Appropriate Technology, and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. The Montana Geothermal Working Group consists of owners and managers of geothermal resources, and others interested in geothermal and renewable energy issues.